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Reply to Office action of May 19, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and
listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): An electronic checkout system
2 comprising:

3 (a) a tool box located in a tool storage room;

4 (b) a plurality of tools stored in said tool box, each of
5 said plurality of tools having a radio frequency
6 identification (RFID) device imbedded therein, said radio
7 frequency identification device for each of said tools
8 operating as an identifier for each of said tools;

9 (c) a first RFID reader mounted on said tool box, said
10 first RFID reader being adapted to read the radio frequency
11 identification device for each of said tools to determine
12 when each of said tools is being removed from said tool box
13 by an authorized user, said first RFID reader reading and

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14 recording the radio frequency identification device for each
15 of said tools which said authorized user removed from said
16 tool box;

17 (d) a second RFID reader mounted on a wall adjacent an
18 exit to said tool storage room, said second RFID reader
19 being adapted to read the radio frequency identification
20 device for each of said tools to determine when each of said
21 tools is being removed from said tool storage room by said
22 authorized user, said second RFID reader reading and
23 recording the radio frequency identification device for each
24 of said tools which has been removed from said tool storage
25 room by said authorized user;

26 (e) an employee identification badge having a radio
27 frequency identification device imbedded therein, said
28 employee identification badge being worn by said authorized
29 user to identify said authorized user as an individual
30 authorized to remove each of said tools from said tool box
31 and said tool storage room; and

32 (f) a wrist band worn by said authorized user, said wrist
33 band having a radio frequency identification device imbedded
34 therein, said wrist band being worn by said authorized user
35 to identify said authorized user as the individual

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36 authorized to remove each of said tools from said tool box
37 and said tool storage room;

38 (fg) said first RFID reader and said second RFID reader
39 reading the radio frequency identification device ~~for~~ of
40 said employee identification badge and the radio frequency
41 identification device of said wrist band to determine when
42 the individual removing any one of said tools from said tool
43 box and said tool storage room is said authorized user,
44 wherein said second RFID reader includes an alarm which is
45 activated whenever an unauthorized individual removes one
46 tool of said plurality of tools from said tool storage room;

47 (h) a wireless link having an antenna, said wireless link
48 being connected to a network which includes said second RFID
49 reader adjacent the exit to said tool storage room;

50 (i) a remote tool box which transmits information via radio
51 frequency signals to the antenna of said wireless link
52 relating to portable tools removed from said remote tool box
53 by said authorized user; and

54 (j) a database connected to said network, said database
55 including a list of employees authorized to remove said
56 portable tools from said remote tool box and to remove said
57 tools from said tool box located in said tool storage room.

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1 Claim 9 (original): The electronic checkout system of claim 8
2 wherein the radio frequency identification device for each of
3 said tools and the radio frequency identification device for said
4 employee identification badge operate at a frequency of 13.56 MHz
5 and provides for read distances of approximately five feet.

1 Claim 10 (original): The electronic checkout system of claim 8
2 wherein the radio frequency identification device for each of
3 said tools and the radio frequency identification device for said
4 employee identification badge operate at a frequency of 2.46 GHz
5 and provides for read distances of approximately ten feet.

1 Claim 11 (original): The electronic checkout system of claim 8
2 wherein said second RFID reader includes a recorder connected
3 thereto, said recorder recording the radio frequency
4 identification device for each of said tools which has been
5 removed from said tool storage room by said authorized user.

1 Claims 12-13 (canceled)

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1 Claim 14 (original): The electronic checkout system of claim 8
2 wherein said first RFID reader has a sensor element, a keypad and
3 a display wherein said sensor element is adapted to receive radio
4 frequency signals transmitted by the radio frequency
5 identification device for each of said tools, said keypad allows
6 said authorized user to enter additional information into said
7 first RFID reader relating to each of said tools said authorized
8 user removes from said tool box, and said display allows said
9 authorized user to read said additional information the
10 authorized user entered into said first RFID reader.

1 Claim 15 (original): The electronic checkout system of claim 8
2 wherein said second RFID reader has a sensor element, a keypad
3 and a display wherein said sensor element is adapted to receive
4 radio frequency signals transmitted by the radio frequency
5 identification device for each of said tools, said keypad allows
6 said authorized user to enter additional information into said
7 second RFID reader relating to each of said tools said
8 authorized user removes from said tool storage room, and said
9 display allows said authorized user to read said additional

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10 information the authorized user entered into said second RFID
11 reader.

1 Claim 16 (original): The electronic checkout system of claim 8
2 wherein said plurality of tools stored in said tool box comprises
3 screw drivers, pliers, wrenches, metal cutting saws, wire
4 strippers wire cutters, electric drills, electric bandsaws, and
5 specialty tools.

Claims 17-18 canceled

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): An electronic checkout system
2 comprising:
3 (a) a tool box located in a tool storage room;
4 (b) a plurality of tools stored in said tool box, each of
5 said plurality of tools having a tool identification device
6 imbedded therein, said tool identification device for each
7 of said tools providing a radio frequency signal containing
8 a digital tool identification code which operates as an
9 identifier for each of said tools;
10 (c) a first RFID reader mounted on said tool box, said

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11 first RFID reader being adapted to receive and read the
12 radio frequency signal provided by each of said tools to
13 determine when each of said tools is being removed from said
14 tool box by an authorized user, said first RFID reader
15 reading the radio frequency signal provided by each of said
16 tools and recording the digital tool identification code for
17 each of said tools which said authorized user removed from
18 said tool box;

19 (d) a second RFID reader mounted on a wall adjacent an
20 exit to said tool storage room, said second RFID reader
21 being adapted to receive and read the radio frequency signal
22 for provided by each of said tools to determine when each of
23 said tools is being removed from said tool storage room by
24 said authorized user, said second RFID reader reading the
25 radio frequency signal provided by each of said tools and
26 recording the digital tool identification code for each of
27 said tools which said authorized user removed from said tool
28 storage room;

29 (e) an employee identification badge having ~~an~~ a first
30 employee identification device imbedded therein, said
31 employee identification badge being worn by said authorized
32 user to identify said authorized user as an individual

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33 authorized to remove each of said tools from said tool box
34 and said tool storage room, the first employee
35 identification device ~~for said employee identification badge~~
36 providing a radio frequency signal containing a digital
37 employee identification code for said authorized user;
38 (f) a wrist band worn by said authorized user, said wrist
39 band having a second employee identification device imbedded
40 therein, said wrist band being worn by said authorized user
41 to identify said authorized user as the individual
42 authorized to remove each of said tools from said tool box
43 and said tool storage room, the second employee
44 identification device providing a radio frequency signal
45 containing said digital employee identification code for
46 said authorized user;
47 (fg) said first RFID reader and said second RFID reader
48 ~~reading the digital employee identification code for said~~
49 ~~employee identification badge~~ receiving the radio frequency
50 signal provided by said first employee identification device
51 and the radio frequency signal provided by said second
52 employee identification device, said first RFID reader and
53 said second RFID reader reading the digital employee
54 identification code contained within the radio frequency

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55 signal provided by said first employee identification device
56 and the radio frequency signal provided by said second
57 employee identification device to determine when the
58 individual removing any one of said tools from said tool box
59 and said tool storage room is said authorized user; and
60 (g) said tool identification device for each of said tools,
61 ~~and~~ said first employee identification device for said
62 employee identification badge and said second employee
63 identification device for said wrist band each comprising a
64 radio frequency identification device selected from the
65 group of radio frequency identification devices consisting
66 of (a) a first RFID device operating at a frequency of 13.56
67 MHz and providing for read distances of approximately five
68 feet, and (b) a second RFID device operating at a frequency
69 of 2.46 GHz and providing for read distances of
70 approximately ten feet;
71 (h) a wireless link having an antenna, said wireless link
72 being connected to a network which includes said second RFID
73 reader adjacent the exit to said tool storage room;
74 (i) a remote tool box which transmits information via radio
75 frequency signals to the antenna of said wireless link
76 relating to portable tools removed from said remote tool box

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77 by said authorized user; and
78 (j) a database connected to said network, said database
79 including a list of employees authorized to remove said
80 portable tools from said remote tool box and to remove said
81 tools from said tool box located in said tool storage room.

20 (canceled).

1 Claim 21 (new): The electronic checkout system of claim 19
2 wherein said second RFID reader includes a recorder connected
3 thereto, said recorder recording the radio frequency
4 identification device for each of said tools which has been
5 removed from said tool storage room by said authorized user.

1 Claim 22 (new): The electronic checkout system of claim 19
2 wherein said first RFID reader has a sensor element, a keypad and
3 a display wherein said sensor element is adapted to receive radio
4 frequency signals transmitted by the radio frequency
5 identification device for each of said tools, said keypad allows
6 said authorized user to enter additional information into said
7 first RFID reader relating to each of said tools said authorized
8 user removes from said tool box, and said display allows said

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9 authorized user to read said additional information the
10 authorized user entered into said first RFID reader.

1 Claim 23 (new): The electronic checkout system of claim 19
2 wherein said plurality of tools stored in said tool box comprises
3 screw drivers, pliers, wrenches, metal cutting saws, wire
4 strippers wire cutters, electric drills, electric bandsaws, and
5 specialty tools.

1 Claim 24 (new) An electronic checkout system comprising:
2 (a) a plurality of tool boxes located in a tool storage
3 room;
4 (b a plurality of tools stored in said plurality
5 tool boxes, each of said plurality of tools having a tool
6 identification device imbedded therein, said tool
7 identification device for each of said tools providing a
8 radio frequency signal containing a digital tool
9 identification code which operates as an identifier for each
10 of said tools;
11 (c) a plurality of tool box RFID readers, one of said
12 plurality of tool box RFID readers mounted on each of said
13 tool boxes, said plurality of tool box RFID readers being

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14 adapted to receive and read the radio frequency signal
15 provided by each of said tools to determine when each of
16 said tools is being removed from one of said tool boxes by
17 an authorized user, said plurality of tool box RFID readers
18 reading the radio frequency signal provided by each of said
19 tools and recording the digital tool identification code for
20 each of said tools which said authorized user removed from
21 one of said tool boxes;

22 (d) a wall mounted RFID reader mounted on a wall adjacent an
23 exit to said tool storage room, said wall mounted RFID
24 reader being adapted to receive and read the radio frequency
25 signal provided by each of said tools to determine when each
26 of said tools is being removed from said tool storage room
27 by said authorized user, said wall mounted RFID reader
28 reading the radio frequency signal provided by each of said
29 tools and recording the digital tool identification code for
30 each of said tools which said authorized user removed from
31 said tool storage room;

32 (e) an employee identification badge having a first
33 employee identification device imbedded therein, said
34 employee identification badge being worn by said authorized
35 user to identify said authorized user as an individual

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36 authorized to remove each of said tools from said tool boxes
37 and said tool storage room, the first employee
38 identification device providing a radio frequency signal
39 containing a digital employee identification code for said
40 authorized user;

41 (f) a wrist band worn by said authorized user, said wrist
42 band having a second employee identification device imbedded
43 therein, said wrist band being worn by said authorized user
44 to identify said authorized user as the individual
45 authorized to remove each of said tools from said tool boxes
46 and said tool storage room, the second employee
47 identification device providing a radio frequency signal
48 containing said digital employee identification code for
49 said authorized user;

50 (g) said plurality of tool box RFID readers and said wall
51 mounted RFID reader receiving the radio frequency signal
52 provided by said first employee identification device and
53 the radio frequency signal provided by said second employee
54 identification device, said first RFID reader and said
55 second RFID reader reading the digital employee
56 identification code contained within the radio frequency
57 signal provided by said first employee identification device

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58 and the radio frequency signal provided by said second
59 employee identification device to determine when the
60 individual removing any one of said tools from said tool
61 boxes and said tool storage room is said authorized user;
62 and
63 (h) a wireless link having an antenna, said wireless link
64 being connected to a network which includes said second RFID
65 reader adjacent the exit to said tool storage room;
66 (i) a remote tool box which transmits information via radio
67 frequency signals to the antenna of said wireless link
68 relating to portable tools removed from said remote tool box
69 by said authorized user; and
70 (j) a database connected to said network, said database
71 including a list of employees authorized to remove said
72 portable tools from said remote tool box and to remove said
73 tools from said tool boxes located in said tool storage
74 room.